

Claims

1-6. Canceled.

7. (previously amended) A method for delivering at least a portion of a multimedia message originated by a multimedia messaging service, MMS, enabled handset to a non-MMS enabled handset comprising the steps of:

receiving and storing the multimedia message containing a voice portion at a message server in a mailbox assigned to a recipient of the multimedia message;

determining if the recipient utilizes a handset that can receive short message service, SMS, messages;

if the recipient utilizes an SMS enabled handset, causing an SMS notification message to be generated and transmitted to the recipient's handset, the notification message communicating to the recipient that a voice message is awaiting delivery to the recipient;

upon receipt of an independent, conventional voice channel cellular call from the recipient at the message server seeking access to the multimedia message awaiting delivery in the recipient's mailbox, transmitting at least a portion of the voice information contained in the multimedia message to the recipient utilizing a voice channel communication mode supported by the conventional voice channel cellular handset of the recipient.

8. Canceled.

9. (original) The method according to claim 7 wherein the multimedia message contains at least a first message portion and wherein the method comprises further steps of determining if the recipient's handset is capable of receiving the communication mode utilized by said first message portion, and upon determining that the recipient's handset is not capable of receiving the communication mode, generating a notice message transmitted to the recipient's handset

informing the recipient that a portion of the multimedia message could not be communicated to the recipient.

10. (previously amended) A message server that supports the delivery of at least a voice portion of a multimedia message originated by a multimedia messaging service, MMS, enabled handset to a non-MMS enabled handset, the message server comprising:

means for receiving and storing the multimedia message in a mailbox assigned to a recipient of the multimedia message, the message server characterized by:

means for determining if the recipient utilizes a handset that can receive short message service, SMS, messages;

means for causing an SMS notification message to be generated and transmitted to the recipient's handset if the recipient utilizes an SMS enabled handset, the notification message communicating to the recipient that at least a voice message is awaiting delivery to the recipient;

means for receiving a conventional cellular voice telephone call from the handset of the recipient;

means for transmitting at least the voice portion of the information contained in the multimedia message to the recipient utilizing a voice communication mode supported by the non-MMS enabled handset of the recipient upon receipt of the voice telephone call from the recipient seeking access to the multimedia message awaiting delivery in the recipient's mailbox.

11. Canceled.

12. (original) The message server according to claim 10 wherein the multimedia message contains at least a first message portion and wherein the message server comprises means for determining if the recipient's handset is capable of receiving the communication mode utilized by said first message portion, and means for generating a notice message transmitted to the

recipient's handset informing the recipient that a portion of the multimedia message could not be communicated to the recipient upon determining that the recipient's handset is not capable of receiving the communication mode.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the voice portion is the representation of the spoken words by a calling party, the voice portion being stored in a conventional voice mailbox in the message server associated with the recipient party.

14. (previously presented) The message server according to claim 10 wherein the voice portion is the representation of the spoken words by a calling party, the message server further comprising a conventional voice mailbox associated with the recipient party that stores conventional voicemail.